

Minutes of Land Use, Parks and Environment Committee
Tuesday, October 7, 2008

Vice-Chair Kolb called the meeting to order at 8:36 a.m. and led the Committee in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Committee Present: Supervisors Fritz Ruf, (Chair) (arrived at 8:48 a.m.), James Jeskewitz, Walter Kolb, Robert Hutton (left at 11:00 a.m.), Ted Rolfs, Gilbert Yerke, and Janel Brandtjen.

Also Present: Chief of Staff Mark Mader, Legislative Associate Karen Phillips, Planning and Zoning Manager Dick Mace, Senior Financial Analyst Lyndsay Johnson, Financial Analyst Bill Duckwitz, Programs and Projects Analyst Rob Dunn, UW Extension Associate Professor Jerry Braatz, Senior Planner Jason Fruth, Real Property Tax Lister Mary Gormanson, Register of Deeds Mike Hasslinger, and Deputy Register of Deeds Chris Crouch.

Approve Minutes of September 16, 2008

MOTION: Jeskewitz moved, second by Brandtjen, to approve the minutes of September 16, 2008.
Motion carried: 6-0.

Future Meeting Dates

- October 21, 2008

Discuss and Consider the 2009 Operating Budget for the Register of Deeds

Hasslinger explained that because he would soon be retiring, Dunn and Crouch would handle the presentation of the budget. Dunn proceeded with a review of the Strategic Outcomes and Objectives for 2009. He continued with a review of the Program Highlights and Activity in the following areas: Administrative Services, Real Estate, Cashiering, Tax Listing and Vital Statistics. Though the Charges for Service revenues will increase, the Department's major revenue sources, including the Real Estate transfer fee and document recording fees, are not expected to increase in 2009. Revenue increases included vital records revenue and fee revenues due to increasing use of internet services available to the public to review real estate records. The Department will unfund a clerk-typist position in the Cashiering program area as a result of the slow down in the real estate market. The Department has also made reductions in the Operating expense and Interdepartmental charges to reflect lower levels of business activity. Dunn briefly discussed the Capital Projects that are expected to be completed in 2009: Tax Records Replacement, Countywide Cashiering and Tract Index Replacement.

Ruf arrived at 8:48 a.m.

Mader thanked Hasslinger for his years of service to Waukesha County and the extraordinary customer service he provided to its citizens.

MOTION: Jeskewitz, second by Kolb, to approve the 2009 Operating Budget for the Register of Deeds.
Motion carried: 7-0.

Update on the Comprehensive Development Plan for Waukesha County

Mace explained that Braatz has worked with Shaver extensively on crafting this new document. He distributed a copy of the Comprehensive Development Plan for Waukesha County for review. He encouraged the Committee members to contact the Department with any questions.

Mace stated that final Comprehensive Plan Advisory Committee meeting was held last week; three more chapters will be finalized and should be available by next week. Mace reviewed the history of the plan development legislation and the Comprehensive Planning Law. Waukesha County was the first County in

the State to create and adopt a County Development Plan.

Mace explained the details of how planning is different from zoning. This document sets the vision for the year 2035 and identifies the fact that lands should not be pre-zoned. The land should be zoned for its present usage. The Plan gives the municipalities the opportunity to make decisions for the future. If any proposed changes are consistent with the plan, they should be approved.

Kolb stated his concern with the Plan in respect to his property. Kolb expressed his surprise at the changes, and asked why and how these changes came about. Fruth stated the Town of Waukesha proposed some changes - it is possible that the changes came about from the Town's effort. Yerke opined that although it is not a zoning map, it seems to become a zoning guide. Mace stated the Smart Growth Law changed the Plan to a much higher level of authority.

Mace stated that questions regarding specifics would be answered on an individual basis, outside of this presentation. They do not have any detailed documentation to refer to at this presentation to answer those individual questions.

Braatz explained the public participation component, which is required by State law. This was accomplished by conducting a countywide survey, conducting open houses to discuss and receive additional input on elements of the draft plan, and the holding of public hearings. Braatz stated there were about 8,000 responses, or about 30% of households who responded to the survey. Braatz reviewed the public response from the survey and addressed some citizen concerns and opinions with regard to population growth, land use, transportation, economic development and public services. Hutton asked if the demographics of the responders were identified. Braatz stated they do have that information, and could make it available. Hutton stated he would be interested in seeing it.

Braatz reviewed the existing demographics in the County, including population growth trends, racial composition, median age, educational attainment and median income. Braatz added that within the State, Waukesha County has the second highest number of people holding college degrees. Fruth reviewed the agricultural resources, stating that prime agriculture makes up 2.8% of the total County land use. Mace went over the cultural resources, surface water resources, water supply, environmental corridors and soil limitations aspects of the plan.

Braatz reviewed the Housing Element chapter. He said that the subcommittee discussions focused on the housing strengths, housing concerns and weakness and housing units by tenure categories. He reviewed the median selling price of existing housing, the numbers regarding owner occupied units, and renter occupied units, housing units by structure type, and housing cost burden. Braatz reviewed the Economic development including major employers, business development, employment by sector, job growth, employment projections, and job projection trends.

Hutton left at approximately 11:00 am.

Fruth gave an overview of the Land Use Chapter, including the land use planning process and County land use. Mace again stated that Chapters 8 and 9 are not included in the handout, but should be completed by next week. Mace reviewed the Transportation Chapter, including the recommended Jurisdictional Highway System Plan, potential rapid transit commuter rail and express transit bus guideway/light rail lines. Mace continued with a review of the Implementation Chapter, including implementation strategies. He concluded by discussing the key changes from the 1996 plan.

In closing, Mace stated that many of the participating communities would adopt the County Plan as their

own community plan. He said the Plan would be reviewed by the Park and Planning Commission, and the County Board in November. An open house will be held, then a public hearing, probably in December. The Plan would then go to the Commission, the LUPE Committee, and the County Board for approval, possibly in January or February. Yerke suggested that the timeframe be released to all of communities once it has been finalized.

Ruf discussed the upcoming Floodplain Amendment Ordinance and stressed the importance of it. He encouraged the LUPE Committee members to bring any questions to Parks and Land Use staff prior to its presentation at the October 21 LUPE Committee meeting.

Meeting Approvals

MOTION: Approve attendance at the SEWRPC meeting at State Fair Park on Thursday, October 9, 2008. In the absence of any objections, motion carried: 6-0.

MOTION: Jeskewitz moved, second by Rolfs, to adjourn the meeting at 11:30 a.m. Motion carried 6-0. Respectfully submitted,

Jim Jeskewitz
Secretary